

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 BIB-01 MMO-01

SAM-01 /091 W

----- 092553

R 111652Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1055

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, XO

SUBJECT: PRAVDA BLASTS U.S. ON INDIAN OCEAN

1. PRAVDA MARCH 11 CARRIES A COLUMN BY REGULAR COMMENTATOR

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OLEG SKALKIN DENOUNCING ALLEGED U.S. EFFORTS "TO MAINTAIN ITS

INFLUENCE" IN THE INDIAN OCEAN BY BUILDING NEW BASES, SPECIFICALLY AT DIEGO GARCIA, AND BY MAINTAINING A STRING OF "SO-CALLED COMMUNICATION STATIONS" FROM AUSTRALIA TO AFRICA. THESE BASES, SAYS SKALKIN, ARE SEEN AS "TOOLS FOR INTERFERING IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN BASIN." THE COUNTRIES OF THE AREA, SKALKIN CONTINUES, CONSIDER THIS U.S. POLICY "A SERIOUS THREAT TO THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IN GENERAL," AND THEY SUPPORT EFFORTS TO DECLARE THE INDIAN OCEAN A ZONE OF PEACE. SKALKIN THEN QUOTES BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT ESCHEWING "BASES" FOR THE USSR AND CALLING ON THE U.S. TO TAKE A SIMILAR STAND.

2. PRAVDA ALSO CARRIES A TASS ITEM FROM PORT LOUIS REPORTING THE ARRIVAL THERE OF TWO SOVIET NAVY SHIPS UNDER THE COMMAND OF REAR ADMIRAL YASAKOV, AND THE CALLS ON SENIOR MAURITIAN OFFICIALS.

3. COMMENT: NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE PRAVDA COMMENTARY DOES NOT MENTION THE PORT LOUIS VISIT OR ANY OTHER ASPECT OF THE SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. IT LIKewise DOES NOT MENTION THE RECENT U.S.-UK AGREEMENT FOR GOING FORWARD ON THE DIEGO GARCIA PROJECT. DESPITE THE SHARPNESS OF TONE, WE SEE IT AS A "FOR-THE-RECORD" COMMENTARY DESIGNED MAINLY TO PUBLICIZE BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT AT THE PARTY CONGRESS. STOESSEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CONSTRUCTION, HEGEMONY, ALLEGATIONS, MILITARY BASES  
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**Draft Date:** 11 MAR 1976  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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